Increase in Bt. Cotton production

1067. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bt. Cotton seed has been found suitable for cultivation in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and other States;

(b) if so, what extent and the acreage under cultivation of this cotton seed in different States, during the last three years and this year; and

(c) the extent to which the cotton yield per acre has increased thereby in diferent States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) As per information provided by different Bt. Cotton growing States, Bt. Cotton seed has been found suitable for cultivation in these States.

(b) The acreage of Bt. Cotton in last three years was as under:

(Area in acres)

States	Kharif-2002	Kharif-2003	Kharif-2004
Andhra Pradesh	9,404	13,500	1,76,000
Madhya Pradesh	3,676	33,000	2,12,798
Gujarat	22,577	1,03,000	3,11,157
Maharashtra	30,699	54,000	3,99,000
Karnataka	5,401	7,500	84,764
Tamil Nadu	925	19,000	29,640
TOTAL	72,682	2,30,000	12,13,359

Area under Bt. Cotton crop during kharif-2005 in all States is under compilation.

(c) As per information provided by different states, the increase in yield of Bt. Cotton varies from 15–30%.

Seed trials of Salinger Cotton of Monsanto

1068. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given sanction for the seed trial of Salinger Cotton of Monsanto;